

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 BIB-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 DHA-02 /096 W

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R 011658Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 640

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

ACONSUL HONG KONG 2425

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA 495

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

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CSAF WASHDC//AFINA/SSA//

CNO WASHDC//OP 614//
DA WASHDC//DAMI-FII//
OSD/ISA/EUR WASHDC

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE SOVIET PRESS: FEB 28-MARCH 1

FOR POLADS
USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

1. SUMMARY:

--THE SOVIET PRESS CONTINUES TO BE FILLED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BY
THE TEXTS OF SPEECHES TO THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS.

--IN OTHER ITEMS, ALL MEDIA REPORTED THE SOVIET PROTEST NOTE TO
THE U.S. OVER THE RECENT SHOOTING INCIDENT IN NEW YORK, AND
GENERAL GRAHAM'S REPORTED COMMENT TO THE WASHINGTON POST ABOUT
LISTENING DEVICES ON THE EMBASSY BUILDING.

--THE MEDIA ALSO REPLAY STORIES OF THE ALLEGED BOMBING IN CAMBODIA
BY F-111 PLANES "OF AMERICAN MANUFACTURE," AND OTHER REPORTS
IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF THAILAND.

--ON THE WESTERN SAHARA DISPUTE, CENTRAL MEDIA REINFORCE THE
SOVIET TILT TOWARD ALGERIA AND REPLAY THE STATEMENT BY THE OAU
SPOKESMAN THAT THE MAJORITY OF OAU MEMBERS SUPPORT THE POLISARIO
FRONT AND THE DECLARATION OF STATEHOOD FOR THE "SAHARA ARAB
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC" (SEPTEL).

--THE CENTRAL PRESS REPORTS THAT ZAIRE AND THE "PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA" HAVE AGREED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS. END
SUMMARY.

2. PARTY CONGRESS. THE SOVIET WEEKEND PRESS CONTINUES TO BE
DOMINATED BY REPORTS FROM THE PARTY CONGRESS. AMONG THE MORE
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INTERESTING SPEECHES BY FOREIGN GUESTS WERE THOSE BY ITALIAN
PARTY CHIEF BERLINGUER (MOSCOW 3083) AND FRENCH POLITBURO
MEMBER PLISSONNIER, BOTH OF WHOM STRESSED THEIR PARTIES'
'INDEPENDENT COURSE. IN A CONSPICUOUS DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT
FOR THE HARDER LINE EUROPEAN PARTIES, PRAVDA (FEB. 29) FRONT-
PAGED A PICTURE AND REPORT OF PORTUGUESE PARTY CHIEF CUNHAL'S
MEETING ON FEBRUARY 28 WITH BREZHNEV, SUSLOV AND PONOMAREV
(SEPTEL).

3. U.S.: ALL MEDIA (FEB 29) CARRIED THE FULL TEXT OF THE SOVIET PROTEST NOTE HANDED TO THE AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 28 CONCERNING THE SHOOTING INCIDENT IN RIVERDALE, NEW YORK, ON FEBRUARY 27. THE ARTICLE DID NOT COMMENT ON THE CONTENTS OF THE NOTE. IZVESTIYA AND PRAVDA (FEB 28) ALSO REPORTED EXCEPTS FROM GENERAL GRAHAM'S COMMENT TO THE WASHINGTON POST ON THE PRESENCE OF EQUIPMENT IN EMBASSY MOSCOW TO MONITOR TELEPHONE AND RADIO MESSAGES (MOSCOW 3077). THE U.S. WAS ALSO IMPLICITLY CRITICIZED IN A REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA, FIRST FOR BLOCKING THE SOVIET DRAFT, THEN FOR BEING THE SOLE NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE NON-ALIGNED DRAFT, WHILE SEVEN WESTERN COUNTRIES ABSTAINED (PRAVDA FEB. 29) COMMENT: WE GATHER THAT PRAVDA WAS WRONG ABOUT THE VOTE OF THE OTHER EUROPEANS, UNLESS THEY WERE REPORTING A DIFFERENT VOTE THAN THE ONE REPORTED IN GENEVA 1478.

4. CAMBODIA/LAOS/THAILAND. PRAVDA (FEB 28) AND OTHER MEDIA REPORTED THE PHNOM PENH RADIO CHARGE THAT ON FEBRUARY 25 THREE F-11 FIGHTER-BOMBERS "OF AMERICAN MANUFACTURE" DROPPED SEVERAL BOMBS IN THE CENTER OF SIEM REAP AND ESCAPED "IN THE DIRECTION OF THE BORDER OF THAILAND." THE SAME TASS ITEM FROM HANOI REPORTED THAT THE CAMBODIAN MFA HAD ANNOUNCED THAT SIX THAI NAVY SHIPS HAD FIRED AT CAMBODIAN PATROL BOATS, SINKING ONE. PRAVDA FOLLOWED THIS WITH A TASS ITEM FROM VIENTIANE CHARGING THAT THAI FORCES ON FEBRUARY 19 HAD FIRED ON THE VILLAGE OF TAPO, NEAR SAVANNAKHET. NONE OF THESE SOVIET MEDIA ITEMS REPORTED THE DENIALS FROM US OR THAI OFFICIAL SOURCES. PRAVDA (FEB 29) ALSO REPORTED THE ASSASSINATION OF BOONSANONG BUNYOTHAYARN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF THAILAND. THE SHORT REPORT SAID THAT BOONSANONG STRONGLY OPPOSED THE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND AND FAVORED BETTER RELATIONS WITH LAOS. THE ITEM CITES THAI SOCIALIST LEADERS THAT THE KILLINGS CLEARLY HAD A "POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHARACTER."

5. ANGOLA/ZAIRE. THE CENTRAL PRESS CARRIES TASS ITEMS ON THE MEETING BETWEEN MPLA CHIEF NETO AND ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU IN BRAZZAVILLE AND THE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THAT THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS. STOESEL

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